

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LONDON 01207 251155Z

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-02 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----001447 251206Z /14/70

O 231843Z JAN 78 ZDK

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2320

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN IMMEDIATE

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EXDIS

SECOND CORRECTED COPY (PARA 2, LINES ADDED)

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E. O. 11652:XGDS-1

TAGS: PDEV RH SF WA UK

SUBJECT: NAMIBIA AND RHODESIA: CONVERSATION WITH
GRAHAM

REF: A) STATE 017201 NOTAL; B) STATE 017283 NOTAL

1. EMBASSY OFFICER SAW JOHNNY GRAHAM JANUARY 23 TO
DISCUSS REFTELS. HE CONVEYED DEPARTMENT'S DISAPPOINT-
MENT THAT THE RHODESIAN MESSAGE HAD BEEN PASSED TO
NKOMO. GRAHAM CLARIFIED THAT THE MESSAGE HAD NOT
BEEN SENT TO NKOMO BUT ONLY THAT THE FOREIGN OFFICE HAD
RESPONDED TO THE RHODESIANS INFORMING THEM IT WOULD
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AGREE TO PASS SUCH A MESSAGE (BUT WITHOUT ENCOURAGING
NKOMO'S RESPONSE). THERE IS AS YET NO REPLY FROM
SALISBURY.

2. EMBASSY OFFICER REITERATED OUR BELIEF THAT
INFORMING NKOMO OF THE RHODESIAN INTEREST IN MEETING
WITH HIM WOULD SERVE NO PURPOSE AND RUN MANY RISKS.

WE BELIEVED THIS CONCLUSION HAD ALREADY BEEN AGREED AT THE MOOSE/OWEN TALKS AND WERE SURPRISED TO DISCOVER THAT THE BRITISH HAD ANSWERED THE RHODESIANS WITHOUT FIRST LETTING US KNOW. GRAHAM THEN CONFIDED THAT THE DECISION TO ANSWER SALISBURY HAD BEEN TAKEN BY OWEN WITHOUT THE ADVICE OF GRAHAM OR HIS SUBORDINATES. EMBASSY OFFICER STRESSED THAT IF THE RHODESIANS COME BACK ACCEPTING THE BRITISH OFFER, THEN WASHINGTON SHOULD BE CONSULTED PRIOR TO ANY COMMUNICATION WITH NKOMO.

3. EMBASSY OFFICER NEXT RAISED THE PROBLEM OF LEAKS ON OUR NAMIBIA INITIATIVE EMPHASIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF CONFIDENTIALITY AT THIS PARTICULARLY DELICATE JUNCTURE. GRAHAM AGREED THAT THE SOUTH AFRICAN'S WOULD BE TEMPTED TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF SUCH LEAKS TO STIMULATE DISSENSION WITHIN THE CONTACT GROUP AND TO DEPICT THEIR SUPERIOR POSITION VIS-A-VIS SWAPO. EMBASSY OFFICER SAID WE WERE THEREFORE SURPRISED TO LEARN THAT AMBASSADOR SCOTT HAD INFORMED BOTHA ON JANUARY 18 OF A POSSIBLE FOREIGN MINISTER LEVEL MEEWBZWGNXKRAHAM SAID

THAT SCOTT HAD NOT INFORMED BOTHA IN ANY PRECISE FASHION. AFTER SOME DISCUSSION, HOWEVER, GRAHAM ADMITTED THAT THE PROSPECT OF SUCH A MEETING WAS CLEARLY IMPLICIT IN SCOTT'S CONVERSATION WITH BOTHA.

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HE DESCRIBED SCOTT'S ACTION AS AN EFFORT TO STRENGTHEN BOTHA'S HAND BEFORE THE FOREIGN MINISTER SEES VOSTER AND HIS CABINET COLLEAGUES. HE DOUBTED, HOWEVER, THAT SCOTT WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY LEAKS TO THE PRESS AND SAID HE BELIEVES THE STORIES HAD ORIGINATED IN EUROPE, POSSIBLY GERMANY. HE DOUBTS ALSO THAT THE SOUTH AFRICANS ORIGINATED THE LEAKS AND SAID THAT FOURIE HAD CALLED SCOTT AFTER BEING APPROACHED BY THE RAND DAILY MAIL TO DISAVOW SOUTH AFRICAN RESPONSIBILITY EMBASSY OFFICER AGAIN WENT OVER POINTS IN REFTEL, INFORMED GRAHAM THAT SIMILAR MESSAGES HAVE BEEN CONVEYED TO OTHER CONTACT GROUP CAPITALS AND REITERATED THE NEED FOR CONFIDENTIALITY. GRAHAM AGREED

4. AGAIN ON RHODESIA, GRAHAM SAID THAT THE DRAFT POSITION PAPER FOR MALTA HAD BEEN POUCHEO TO SQUIRE IN WASHINGTON ON SUNAY. THE "CENTER PIECE" PAPER IS STILL NOT COMPLETE BUT GRAHAM HOPES TO HAVE IT BY THIS EVENING OR EARLY TOMORROW MORNING AND WILL GIVE US A COPY IMMEDIATELY. HE APPRECIATES THE URGENCY.

BREWSTER

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